(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the extent of loss suffered as a result thereof;

(c) what is the outcome of the inquiry, if any, conducted into the causes of the fire and whether any sabotage is suspected; and

(d) what action has been taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Fire broke out in the cable gallery and cable tunnel connecting the Switchyard to the Power House Control room causing damage to transformers, cables and control panels. The loss is estimated to be of the order of about Rs. 3 crores.

(c) and (d) The cause of the fire and the extent of damage would be known after the report of the Enquiry Committee is available.

Short supply of insulin in the country

2052. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the continuous short supply of insulin in the country;

(b) if so, by what percentage the demand for insulin is met from within the country and what is the annual rate of its imports to meet the demand; and

(c) the manner in which Government propose to ensure adequate supply of insulin for the diabetic patients in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) This Ministry regularly monitors the availability of all important vital drugs, based on periodical reports of State Drug Controllers. As per available information, there is no shortage of insulin in the country, at present.

Non-availability of Salzopyrin drug in Delhi and Allahabad

2053. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that for the last two months Salzopyrin drug is not available in the market specially at Delhi and Allahabad and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to make the drug available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) This Ministry regularly monitors the availability of all important vital drugs, based on the periodical reports of State Drug Controllers. As per available information, no reports of shortage of drug referred to in the question at Delhi and Allahabad were received in the recent past.

(b) Does not arise.

Production of bicycle components and diary equipments

2054. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering a proposal to reserve the production of certain bicycle components and items of dairy equipments to certain medium and large scale industries, and

(b) if so, what are the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b) There is no proposal to reserve production of bicycle components and dairy equipment by medium and large scale industries only.

Oil exploration by a private sector company

2055. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Indian private sector company has been allowed to enter the field of onshore and offshore oil exploration if so, what are the reasons for this major departure from the oil exploration policy in vogue so far;

(b) whether other private companies are also likely to be allowed to enter this field; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) An offer from Hindustan Oil Exploration Company Ltd. for exploration of hydrocarbons in onshore areas on a risk-sharing basis has been received.

Various issues related to participation by a private oil company in such a venture would need consideration for taking a final decision in this matter.

Gas reserves in Bantumilli in the north east of Machilipatnam

2056. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether large quantities of oil and gas were recently struck in the second well at Bantumilli, North East of Machilipatnam in the Krishna-Godavari basin;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) wnat would be the total gas production in the entire Krishna-Godavari basin by the end of the Seventh Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Oil and gas have been found in the second well at Bantumilli, North East of Machilipatnam. The well during initial testing, produced 100-150 barrels/day of oil and 23,000 cubic metres per day of solution gas through 16/64" choke. The extent of reserves will, however, be known after further drilling of step out wells.

(c) Gas production from Krishna Godavari basin till end of 7th Plan period is expected to be around 117 million cubic metres.

पेट्रोल पम्पों तथा गैस एजेंसियों के आबंटन का मानदंड

2057. **डा० अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या **पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) पेट्रोल पंप और गैस एजेंसियों के आबंटन के लिए जिन व्यक्तियों का साक्षात्कार किया जाता है उनके लिये क्या मानदंड अपनाया जाता है;